

## Leviticus 23:1-14 - Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- I know this sounds sensational, but we're about to embark on what could be deemed as one of the most fascinating studies in the Bible.
- Chapter 23 is about the seven annual feasts which the Lord appoints for the children of Israel to celebrate as Holy Days, or holidays.
- What makes this study so exciting is that these feasts are prophetic in how they speak to and even point to the person of Jesus Christ.

23:1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts. 3'six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. 4 'These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.

- Here we have an introduction of sorts as the Lord tells Moses to speak to the children of Israel about "The Feasts of the Lord."
- While not a feast, the Lord begins with the Sabbath because these holy days were to be set apart from the other days like the Sabbath.
- In other words these were days that were set apart as a time of celebration and commemoration as a proclamation of all God has done.

### THE FEASTS

FEAST – FESTIVAL - FESTIVE Appointed Time – (Points to a time). (mo-ade'); an appointment, i.e. a fixed time or season; specifically, a festival; KJV - appointed (sign, time).

### THE FEASTS THEN...

- Seven feasts were given to Israel to celebrate over a seven-month period of time, beginning in spring and continuing through fall.
- (Exodus 12; 23:14-17; Leviticus 23; Numbers 28 & 29; and Deuteronomy 16)

### THE FEASTS NOW...

**Colossians 2:16-17** "Let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ."

- This passage refers to the feasts as a "mere shadow" of things to come, the substance of them being found in Christ.
- These feasts were prophetic types, or symbols, that pointed to Jesus Christ and which would be fulfilled in Him.
- The first four were fulfilled with the first coming of Christ. The last three will be fulfilled with the rapture and second coming of Christ.
- The first three feasts Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits take place in the spring over a period of eight days.
- The fourth feast, Harvest, (also known by its Greek name, Pentecost, a word meaning 50), is 50 days later at the beginning of summer.
- The last three feasts Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles took place over a period of twenty-one days in the fall of the year.

5 On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORD's Passover.

- We start of wit the first feast and it's to be the Passover celebration on the fourteenth day of the first month.
- The Feast of Passover is a prophetic picture of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ as our "Passover Lamb."

**1 Corinthians 5:7b** ...For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

### 1. THE CRUCIFIXION – "PASSEVER" (VERSE 5)

FEAST	WHAT THIS MEANS	WHAT THIS MEANS TO ME
Passover – (One Day) The Crucifixion (Leviticus 23:5)	The "Angel of Death" passed over the Israelites if blood was on the four posts of the door.	Death, the penalty for my sin, is passed over because the blood of the lamb of God was shed for me on the four posts of the cross.

The calendar starts over with a lamb		The calendar started over as "the" lamb
The lamb is brought in the house on the 10 <sup>th</sup> day		Jesus made his triumphant entry on the 10 <sup>th</sup> day
The lamb was inspected for four days		Jesus was tried for four days
The lamb was to be found without any blemish		Jesus was found to be innocent, without any sin
The blood of the lamb was in the shape of a cross on their door		Jesus as the Lamb shed His blood on the cross
The lamb had to come into contact with the fire/judgment		Jesus had to endure the judgment of mankind's sin
10 <sup>TH</sup> Aviv	Procession of Lamb into Temple	Jesus' procession into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:17)
10 <sup>TH</sup> Aviv	Lamb examined, four days. (Exodus 12:1-11)	Jesus is questioned. His last four days. (Matthew 22:15-33)
14 <sup>TH</sup> Aviv	Passover begins at 6:00 PM.	Jesus begins his path to the cross.
3 <sup>RD</sup> Hour	Lambs are prepared for sacrifice at 9:00 AM.	Jesus is beaten, prepared for the cross. (Matthew 27:28)
9 <sup>TH</sup> Hour	Lambs are sacrificed at 3:00 PM.	Jesus is sacrificed on the cross. (Matthew 27:48-52)
The lamb was to be eaten with bitter herbs		Jesus endured the bitterness of the cross
The lamb had to be "finished" by the morning		Jesus said; "it is finished," now for resurrection morning
The lamb would save from the death to the "firstborn"		Jesus saves those who are "born again" in the "second birth"
The lamb was not to have any bones broken		None of Jesus bones were broken
The bread had to be without leaven		Jesus, the bread of life, is without sin

6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.7 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.8 But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it."

- Now we learn about the second of the feasts, "the Feast of Unleavened Bread." This feast is a prophetic picture of Christ's burial.

**1 Corinthians 5:6-8** 6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

## 2. THE BURIAL - "UNLEAVENED BREAD" (VERSES 6-8)

FEAST	WHAT THIS MEANS	WHAT THIS MEANS TO ME
Unleavened Bread –(Seven days) The Burial (Leviticus 23:6-8)	In the exodus from Egypt the Israelites left quickly and didn't have "leaven" (sin) in the bread.	I leave the old life and die to the old man. Jesus is the bread of new life. Jesus body was the bread to be broken and without sin (leaven).

THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD	JESUS IS THE UNLEAVENED BREAD
At the Passover meal, they have three pieces of bread.	The 3 breads represent the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
The Matzah-bread in the center is then broken in two	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Matzah represents Jesus' body that's broken.
The Matzah-bread now is two pieces of one bread	Jesus was both fully God and fully man and still is.
The larger of the two is called the "afikomen"	Afikomen is a Greek word that could mean "I came"
The Afikomen is wrapped in a cloth and hidden	Jesus' was wrapped in a burial cloth, hid in the tomb
Children race to find the afikomen and receive a prize	Come to Jesus as a child, run the race, receive the prize

9 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,10 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them:"When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.11 He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.12 And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD.13 Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin.14 You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

- This is the third of the feasts, "the Feast of First Fruits," and this feast is a prophetic picture of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## 3. THE RESURRECTION - "FIRST FRUITS" (VERSES 9-14)

**1 Corinthians 15:20-24** 20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. 21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

- "A picture is worth a thousand words". The Israelites were given these visual pictures, as signs pointing to the final destination.
- Once Jesus arrived the first time to His first destination here on earth, the "sign" wasn't needed any longer.
- The signs and symbols had served their purpose in telling them what was coming, namely the person of Jesus Christ their Messiah.
- Though the signs are of no use to us, it doesn't mean that they are of no value in what they mean to us.

FEAST	WHAT THIS MEANS	WHAT THIS MEANS TO ME
First-Fruits – (One day) The Resurrection (Leviticus 23:9-14)	The beginning first barley harvest was a wave offering and on the first day of the week.	Christ's resurrection ( <i>not resuscitation</i> ) was the first and the beginning of the first resurrection on the first day of the week, Sunday.

REFERENCE	FEAST	FULFILLMENT
(Leviticus 23:5)	Passover	The Crucifixion
(Leviticus 23:6-8)	Unleavened Bread	The Burial
(Leviticus 23:9-14)	First-Fruits	The Resurrection
(Leviticus 23:15-22)	Pentecost	The Church Age
Leviticus 23:23-25)	Trumpets	The Rapture of the Church
(Leviticus 23:26-32)	Day of Atonement	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming
(Leviticus 23:33-43)	Tabernacles	The Kingdom Age and Heaven